

OPINION 1899

Meristella Hall, 1859 (Brachiopoda): *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 designated as the type species

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Brachiopoda; Lower Devonian; *Meristella*; *Meristella laevis*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Meristella* Hall, 1859 prior to the designation by Miller (1889) of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 are hereby set aside.
- (2) The name *Meristella* Hall, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Miller (1889) *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842, as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *laevis* Vanuxem, 1842, as published in the binomen *Atrypa laevis* (specific name of the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3003

An application for the designation of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 as the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859 was received from Dr F. Alvarez (*Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain*) on 13 November 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 53: 182–183 (September 1996). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Prof A.J. Boucot (*Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, U.S.A.*), from Dr C.H.C. Brunton (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and from Prof A.D. Wright (*Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, U.K.*) were published in BZN 54: 50–51 (March 1997).

A further comment in support from Dr Sandra J. Carlson (*University of California, Davis, California, U.S.A.*) was published in BZN 54: 104 (June 1997).

Decision of the Commission

On 10 September 1997 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 183. At the close of the voting period on 10 December 1997 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahmert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — none.

Bouchet abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Abstaining, Bouchet commented: 'The application fails to document the consequences of adopting *Atrypa naviformis* Hall, 1843 as the type species of *Meristella* Hall, 1859. Is there type material in existence? I feel that there is insufficient

information for a vote'. Voting for, Cocks commented: 'I strongly support this application. The status of *Meristella* has been uncertain for too long'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

laevis. *Atrypa*, Vanuxem, 1842. *Natural History of New York*, p. 120.

Meristella Hall, 1859. *Palaeontology of New York*. *New York State Cabinet of Natural History, Annual Report*, 12: 78.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Atrypa laevis* Vanuxem, 1842 as the type of the nominal genus *Meristella* Hall, 1859:

Miller, S.A. 1889. *North American geology and paleontology for the use of amateurs, students and scientists*, p. 354.